



# Decodables + Digital: Bringing Foundational Reading Skills to Life with Epic

1pm - 2pm

Location: W203C

# Are You Playing Mascot Mayhem?

Make your way to Booth #1001, to start the game!





Decodables + Digital:  
Bringing Foundational  
Reading Skills to Life  
with Epic



**Daniel Rezac**

Educator Engagement Lead  
Epic Books for Kids



**Christine Hjorth**

Decodable Expert for Epic  
Books, Author, Teacher, CEO of  
Aligned Educational Resources



**Dr. Devon Caldwell**

Kindergarten Teacher, University  
Instructor,  
Epic Ambassador

# Today's Agenda!

Participants will:

- **Understand** how digital decodables support Science of Reading practices
- **Discover** classroom-ready Epic resources
- Explore ways to **apply** foundational skills instruction w/ Epic books
- **Preview** new AI tools available in Epic to boost instruction





## Intro

## Why Epic?

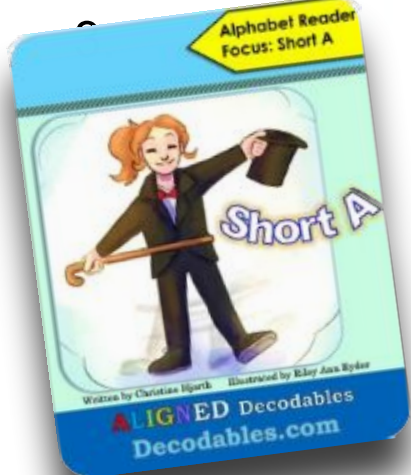
# Epic's Impact on the Classroom

1. Trusted by millions of teachers and students - most already in this room
2. 40,000 books and growing - on demand
3. Always has been *intentional* use of tech
4. It's a literacy ecosystem, always listening and growing.

Teachers love Epic!  
**2 MILLION+**  
already use it in school.

# What we know:

1. 38+ states have passed legislation requiring evidence-based reading instruction.
2. Decodable texts are essential to structured literacy
3. Epic has opened up a lane for decodables with hundreds of options



## Why Decodables?



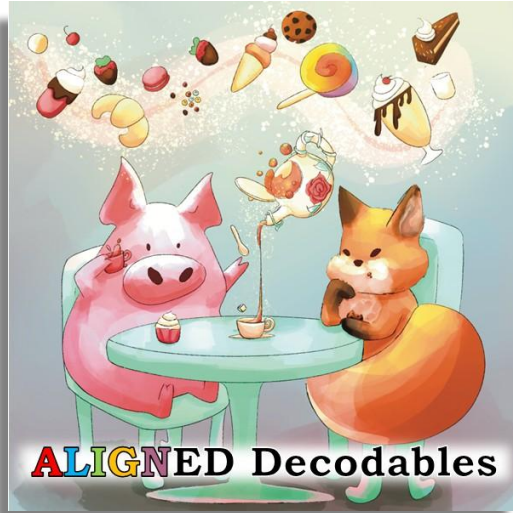
**Special Guest!**



**Christine Hjorth**

Decodable Expert and  
Epic Ambassador

# What is a Decodable?



*An essential part of the process for beginners involves learning the alphabetic system, that is, letter-sound correspondences and spelling patterns, and learning how to **apply** this knowledge in their reading. (National Reading Panel, 2001).*

A decodable book is a book that a student uses to practice the phonics skills and high-frequency words that they have learned. The most vital way to make this happen is for teachers to use decodables that align to the order that their curriculum introduces this content.

# ALIGNED Decodables Align to 22 Curriculums!

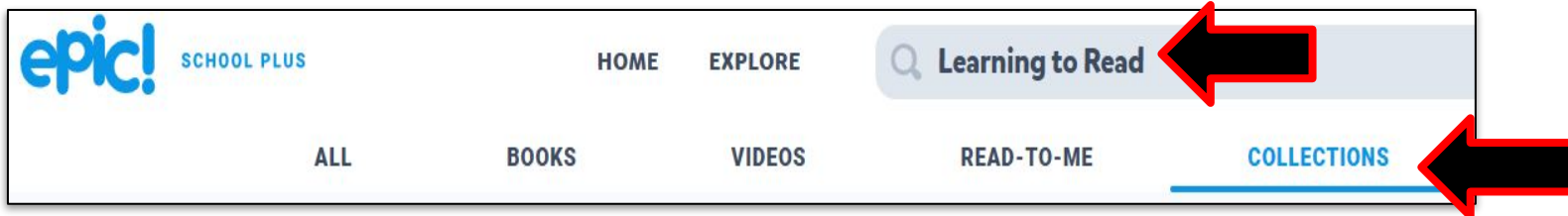
## Collections on EPIC!

|                   |                  |                      |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| UFLI              | Foundations(R)   | CKLA                 |
| 95% Group         | Reading Horizons | Open Court           |
| Into Reading      | Wonders 2023     | EL Education         |
| Saxon Phonics     | SAAVAS           | Journeys             |
| ReadyGen          | SIPPS            | Reading Street       |
| IMSE 2022         | MA Rooney        | Really Great Reading |
| Reach for Reading | Superkids        | Reading by Design    |
| Phonics First     |                  |                      |

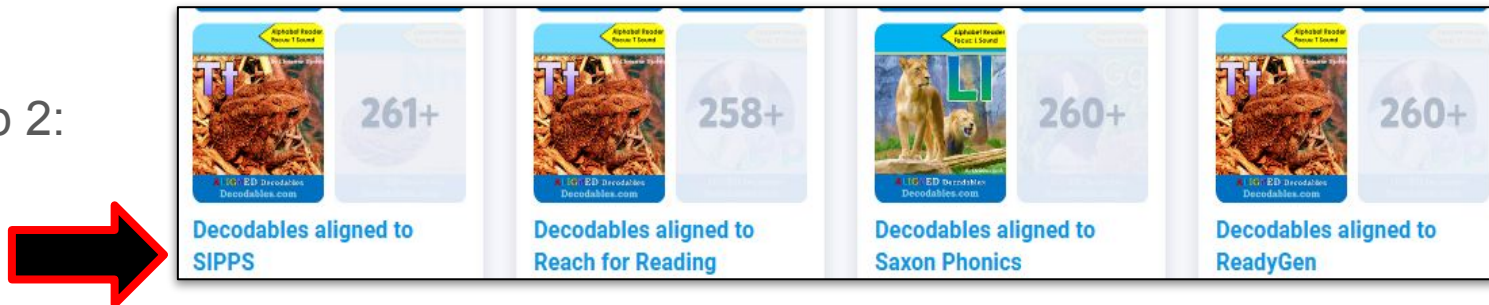
The decodables follow the scope and sequence for introduction of phonic skills and high-frequency words. The books also build in word count, sentence complexity, and comprehension difficulty.

# How to find the books that align to YOUR scope and sequence:

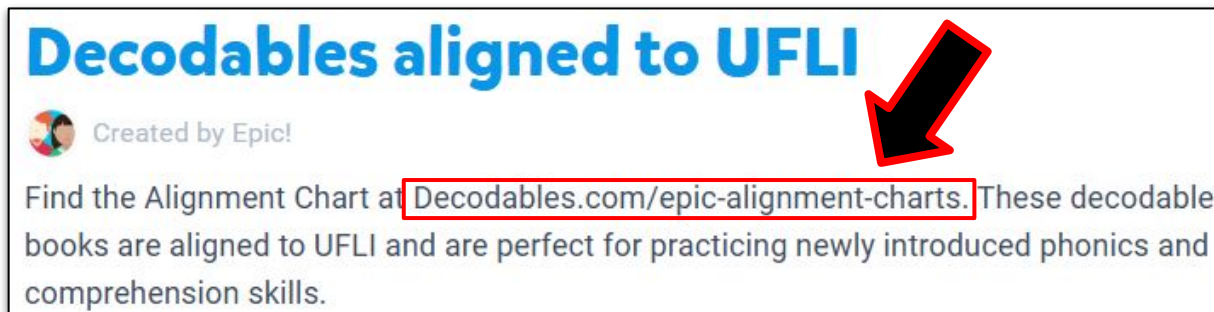
Step 1:



Step 2:



Step 3:



| Kindergarten |                |                        |                    |      |         |     |                       |
|--------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|------|---------|-----|-----------------------|
| Les          | UFLI Focus     | Aligned Book Title     | Aligned Book Focus | Type | #W ords | %   | Words Out of Sequence |
| 41           | Short Vowels   | The Fox Yips           | CVC                | NF   | 31      | 100 |                       |
| 42           | FF, SS, LL, ZZ | Ann and Gram           | Doubles            | P    | 96      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | Doubles Blending Book  | Doubles            | B    | 68      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | Fluency Builder "Pig"  | Fluency            | FB   | 25      | 100 |                       |
| 43           | ALL, OLL, ULL  | LL Blending Book       | LL, ULL            | B    | 75      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | Hats                   | CVC                | F    | 57      | 100 |                       |
| 44           | CK             | CK Blending Book       | CK                 | B    | 70      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | Fluency Builder "Duck" | Fluency, CK        | FB   | 27      | 100 |                       |
| 45           | SH             | SH Blending Book       | SH                 | B    | 69      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | Sam's Shop             | SH                 | F    | 77      | 99  | <u>home</u>           |
|              |                | Fluency Builder "Fish" | Fluency, SH        | FB   | 35      | 100 |                       |
| 46           | TH             | Fun at Camp            | Unvoiced TH        | P    | 46      | 100 |                       |
| 47           | TH             | TH Blending Book       | TH                 | B    | 73      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | Kash the Sloth         | TH, SH             | P    | 76      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | This Is                | TH                 | NF   | 28      | 100 |                       |
| 48           | CH             | CH Blending Book       | CH                 | B    | 72      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | Lunch on a Bench       | CH                 | F    | 56      | 98  | <u>like</u>           |
|              |                | Fluency Builder "Man"  | Fluency, CH        | FB   | 35      | 100 |                       |
| 49           | Review         | Ben and Meg            | CVC                | F    | 63      | 99  | <u>out</u>            |
| 50           | WH/PH          | The Graph              | WH/PH              | P    | 50      | 100 |                       |
| 51           | NG             | NG Blending Book       | NG                 | 78   | 100     |     |                       |
|              |                | Dogs Can               | NG, -s             | NF   | 37      | 100 |                       |
| 52           | NK             | NK Blending Book       | NK                 | B    | 78      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | This or That           | NK, Homographs     | NF   | 45      | 100 |                       |
| 54           | A_E            | A_E Blending Book      | A_E                | B    | 84      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | Chase                  | A_E                | P    | 76      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | Jen's Snack            | Blends             | F    | 71      | 100 |                       |
| 55           | I_E            | I_E Blending Book      | I_E                | B    | 84      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | Line Drive             | I_E                | P    | 60      | 100 |                       |

You can assign all of the books from lesson 1-48 to practice skills up to and including that lesson.

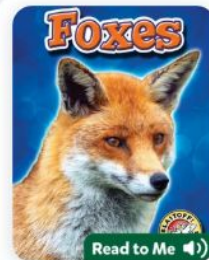
**ALIGNED** Decodables are written for differentiation.

If you are on Lesson 48, you are teaching the digraph CH and have three teaching and practice opportunities.

You can test your advanced students and use a book to teach them the skill that they are ready for.

| Kindergarten |                |                        |                    |      |         |     |                       |
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| 55           | I_E            | I_E Blending Book      | I_E                | B    | 84      | 100 |                       |
|              |                | Line Drive             | I_E                | P    | 60      | 100 |                       |

Research shows that students should not exclusively read decodable books. Using Epic! you can assign other books based on a topic!



Foxes: Backyard Wildlife

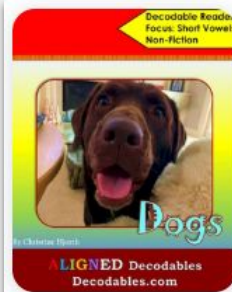


Foxes

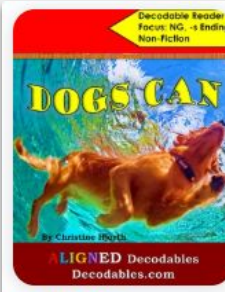


Bear and Fox: The Northern Trail

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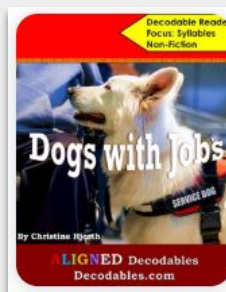
Dogs



Dogs Can



You and Your Dog



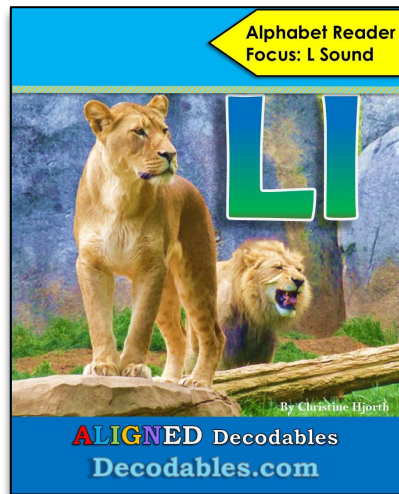
Dogs With Jobs

K - Les. 30

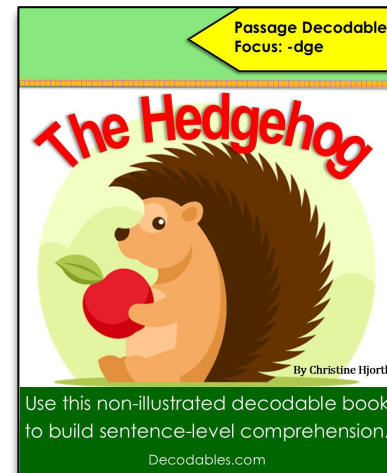
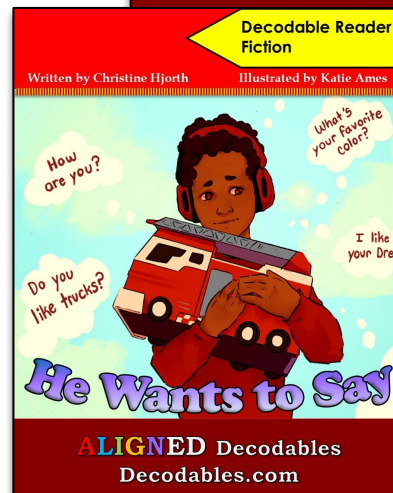
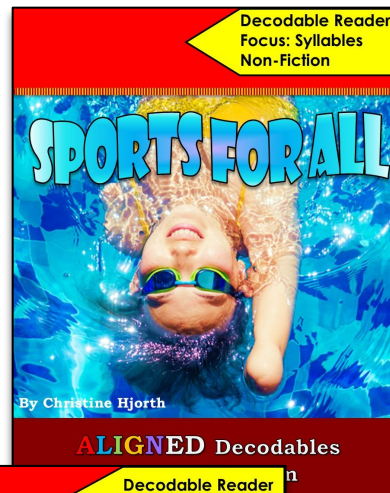
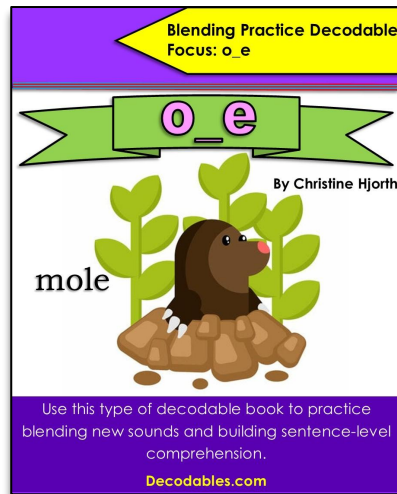
K - Les. 51

1 - Les. 57

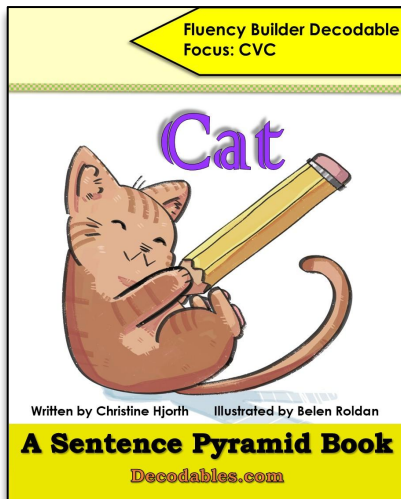
2 - Les. 71



# FIVE types of decodables from **ALIGNED**



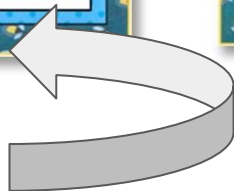
Callum has to trudge  
two miles to his lodge,  
which is just past the  
bridge.



Decodable Readers also include advanced and morphology-based books for older students.

# **ALIGNED** Decodables has an EXCLUSIVE Flashcard format!

Students should not be able to use a picture cue while reading. With the **ALIGNED** decodables, the student needs to read the text alone on the page first. Then, they turn the page to see the corresponding picture. This allows them to confirm the meaning of what they read and also build engagement and enjoyment.



Read the sentence, then turn the page to see the picture.

# The benefits of EPIC! and planning your small groups and centers or rotation:

Small group with the teacher



Independent practice at their desk...



Flexible seating for silent reading or read alouds



Homework assignment



or at the computer





**Dr. Devon Caldwell**

Epic Ambassador



**Special Guest!**

Bringing Epic Decodables to Life in the  
Classroom with Dr. Devon Caldwell, PhD

# My Classroom Practice



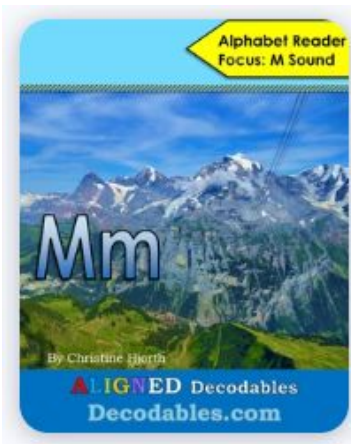
**BRANDON  
UNIVERSITY**



# In My Classroom: Phonics Programs and Epic Decodables

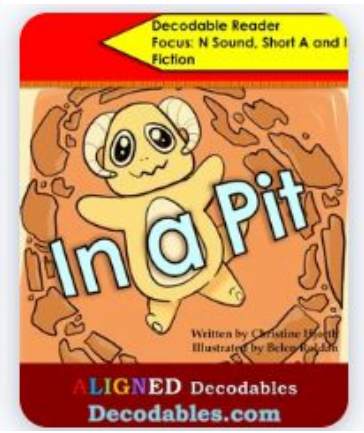
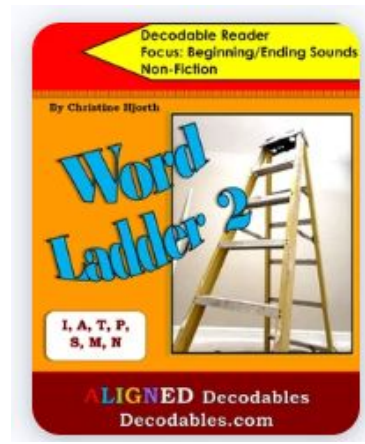
## Letterland

- September-January
  - Letterland alphabet teaching sequence
  - Match to Epic alphabet readers



## UFLI

- January-June
  - One UFLI lesson over two days
  - Match to Epic decodables aligned with UFLI



# In Teacher Education Programs: Epic

## ELA Methods

- Curriculum & Instruction
  - Supplementing classroom libraries
  - Providing access to books that may not be available
  - The role of decodables in phonics instruction

## Inclusive Education

- Accessibility, Differentiation, & Inclusivity
  - Accessibility features and language options
  - Matching readers to books
  - An entry point for all learners

# Decodables as a bridge from phonics to reading

## Why decodables are the next step in your phonics instruction

- Decodables support transfer from explicit phonics lessons into real reading
- Build accuracy, fluency, and confidence

“We suggest that a healthy literacy diet for beginning readers consists of literacy experiences along a number of dimensions, including experiences with phonics texts, rich children’s literature, and language comprehension.”

Pennell, A. E., Jordan, R. L. P., Nash, K. T., Elson, K., & Trathen, W. (2024). A healthy diet for beginning readers: Decodable texts as part of a comprehensive literacy program. *Reading Teacher*, 77(5), 673–684.



# Why digital decodables can increase engagement

Epic amplifies, not replaces, explicit phonics instruction

- Match text to phonics skill(s): search and filter for “just right” texts
- Create and share collections for class use
- Assign books to learners
- Because the text matches what students have already learned, decodables help build **accurate word recognition, confidence, and early fluency** through successful rereading.

# A practical classroom routine with Epic decodables: Epic amplifies, not replaces, explicit phonics instruction



I DO: teach or review the targeted phonics pattern explicitly



WE DO: read a short Epic decodable together, hunting for the pattern



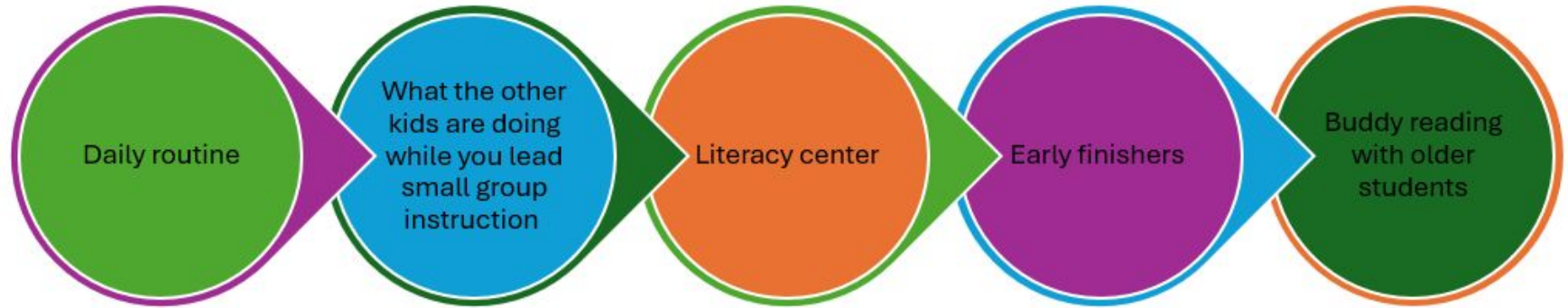
YOU DO: students re-read independently or with a partner on devices



EXTEND: oral retellings, word sorts, or sound hunt linked to the book

# A practical classroom routine with Epic decodables

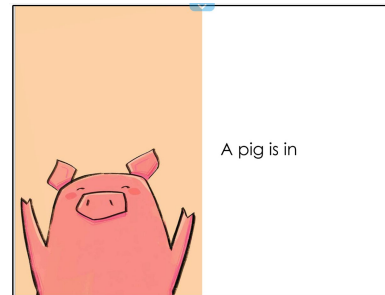
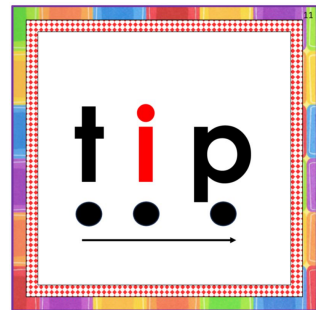
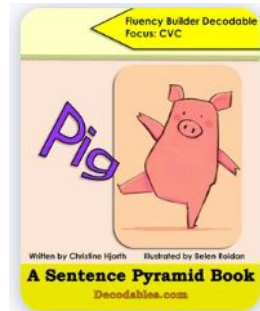
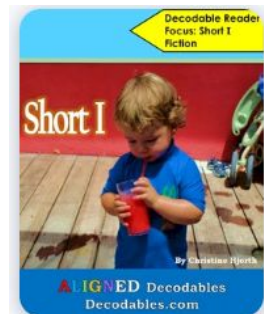
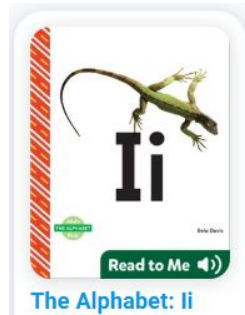
Embedded in classroom routines



# Differentiating for diverse learners

## Adjusting access, pacing, and practice

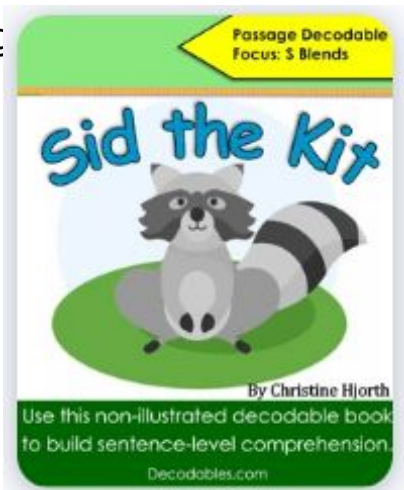
- For students needing more support
  - Repeat the same phonics pattern
  - Teacher-led small group
  - Re-reading
  - Sentence pyramid books, word ladder books, alphabet readers



# Differentiating for diverse learners

## Adjusting access, pacing, and practice

- For students ready to move ahead
  - Teacher-led small group
  - Practice similar patterns with slightly more complex texts
  - Vocabulary
  - Comprehension response
  - Independent practice



In the **sk**it, Sid  
● ● ● ●  
**sk**ips.  
●

# Take-home reading routines

Extending practice beyond the classroom

Send home or assign 1-2 decodable books that match the week's phonics pattern(s)

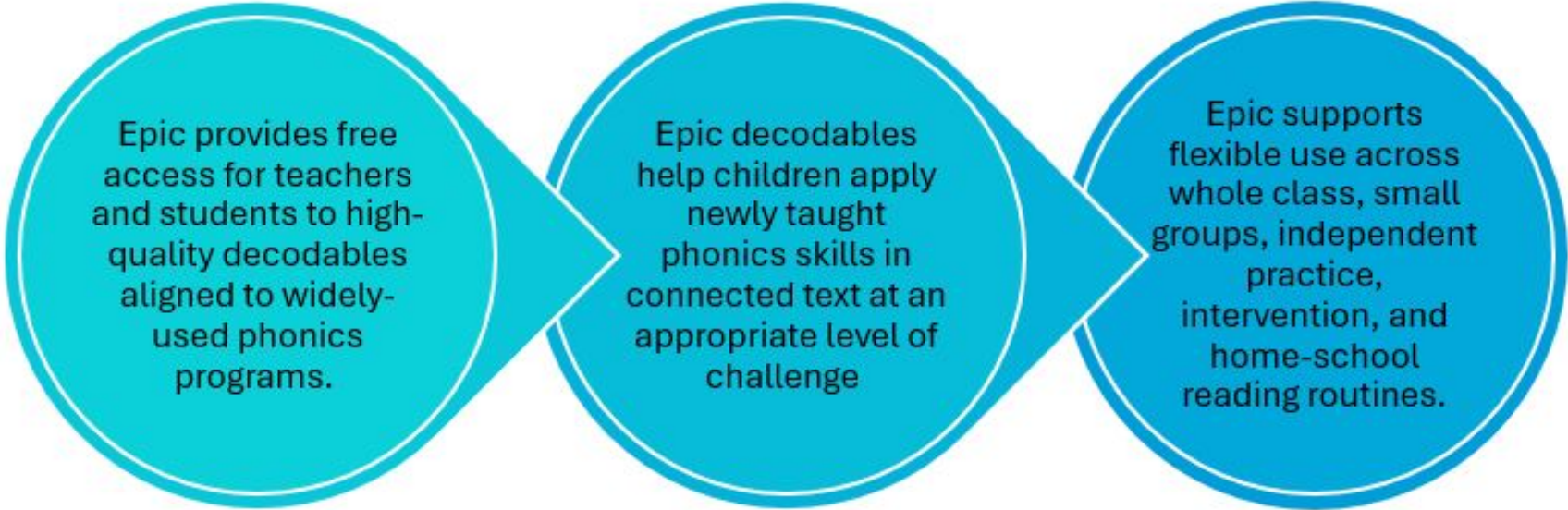
Introduce a simple routine for families: listen, echo read, re-read, talk about one new word

Short, repeated practice rather than long reading sessions



# Key Takeaways

What this looks like in practice



Epic provides free access for teachers and students to high-quality decodables aligned to widely-used phonics programs.

Epic decodables help children apply newly taught phonics skills in connected text at an appropriate level of challenge

Epic supports flexible use across whole class, small groups, independent practice, intervention, and home-school reading routines.

# Interested in learning more?

See how I use Epic and Lumio together for reading comprehension!

## Bring Stories to Life: Epic Storybooks + Lumio for Reading Comprehension

Discover how Epic storybooks paired with Lumio interactive activities can transform reading instruction. In this engaging mini session, educators will explore ready-to-use ideas for teaching story elements, retelling, sequencing, comprehension, and discussion through interactive literacy experiences that keep students actively involved from start to finish.

Epic Booth #1001

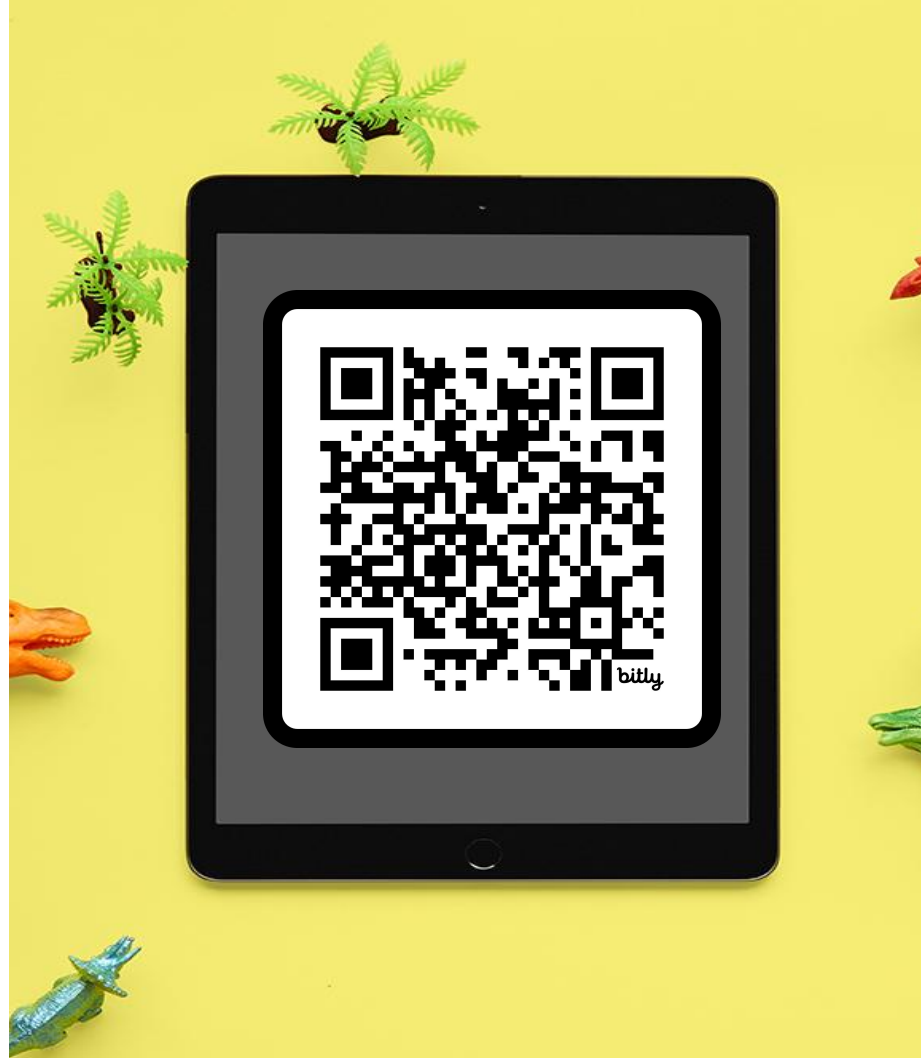
July 1 at 9:30 am

<http://go.getepic.com/iste26>

# Decodables aligned to UFLI

Go to:

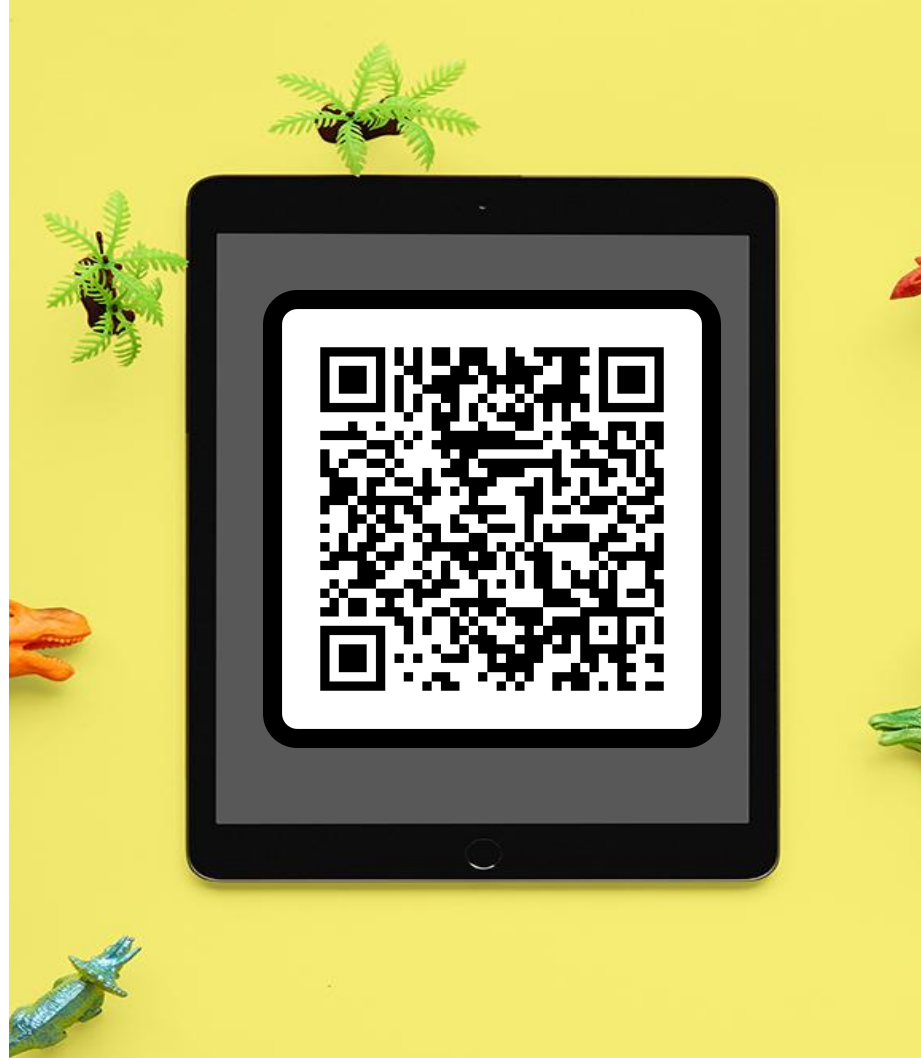
[go.getepic.com/ufl](https://go.getepic.com/ufl)



# The EPIC Alignment Charts

Go to:

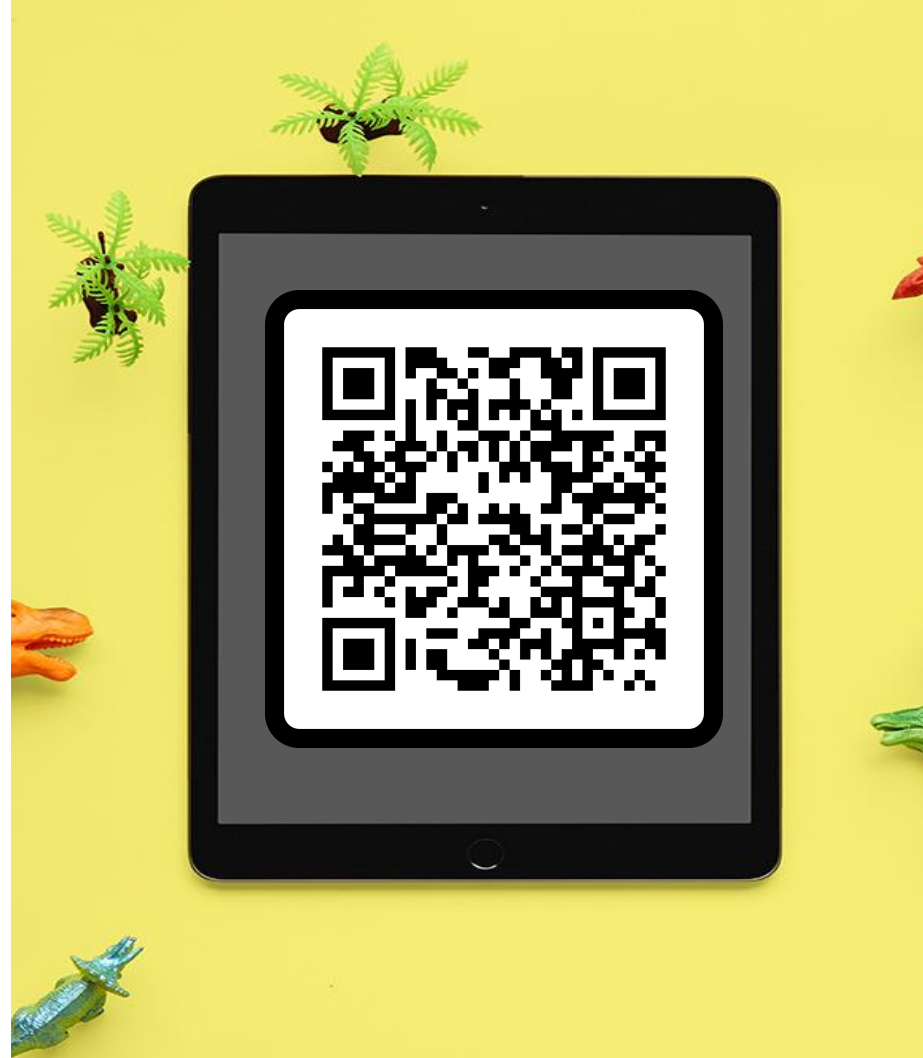
[go.getepic.com/alignment](https://go.getepic.com/alignment)



# All of Today's Resources!

Go to:

[go.getepic.com/iste26](https://go.getepic.com/iste26)





## Summary

## What's Coming?

# First Look: AI Powered Quizzes in Epic

- Always intentional
- Always growing
- Always adding value

# First Look: AI Powered Quizzes in Epic



Insert Video!



Thank you

Thank you

**epic!**



## Section Headline Option 2

# Headline Only

# Headline Only

With a subhead

One to two lines of a short and  
impactful message here.